



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA Awards More than \$1.2 Million in Funding to Marine Debris Projects

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$1.2 million in funding for projects to address marine debris through the 2006 Internal Marine Debris Competitive Grants Process. The projects are funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program (NOAA MDP) within the Office of Response and Restoration.

Since 2005, the NOAA MDP has used its funding to help build collaborations among NOAA programs and offices to support a wide variety of important marine debris efforts, promoting strong partnerships at the national, regional, and local levels to address marine debris issues. The NOAA MDP Internal Grant Program funds projects that focus on education and outreach, protocols and training, derelict fishing gear impacts, and coordination among partners to reduce and prevent marine debris, all building upon NOAA's capacity to address marine debris issues.

The range of projects funded this year include such areas as emergency response, research and development of new technologies, cleanup efforts in targeted areas, nationwide education programs, monofilament recycling programs, and projects that reduce the impact of marine debris on marine mammals and seabirds.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program works with other NOAA offices, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and private sector partners to support national, state, local and international efforts to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris.

The Marine Debris Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov/>

NOAA's Marine Debris Program - <http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/>